

Officials of the FCC,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to respectfully request that the FCC reject the proposed "Broadcast Flag" mandate, which as represented to me, would it illegal to use or possess digital radio and television software and hardware not crippled to respect this 'flag.'

Let me make clear that I do not condone distribution of copyrighted material without permission--and I do not do any of the things that this broadcast flag is intended to prevent. Nor do I permit others to do so using my computer equipment, VCR, and so on. I agree that such actions violate the legitimate rights of others.

However, I reject the notion that the manufacturers of televisions and digital reproduction software have any reason to exercise veto power over my right to process digital content that I may have every legal right to use--perhaps because this content was freely licensed, or under provisions of fair use.

Further, I hold that I have a fundamental right to freely create and to possess, for my own purposes, software and hardware devices that manipulate digital information.

The FCC needs to act in the interests of all the citizens of the United States, not just those with powerful lobbies behind them. And it needs to stand behind punishment for copyright violations when they occur--not before they occur, by criminalization and compulsory licensing of digital technology.

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